

patent application was sufficiently identified in the specification, and thus no new matter has been added by amending the specification to include the application's serial number. Indeed, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/595,154 was the only patent application filed concurrently with the present application on June 16, 2000 that was entitled "Method And Apparatus For An Automated Injection Molding Configuring and Manufacturing System" and commonly assigned with the present application.

In the Office Action dated June 20, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the Applicant's admitted prior art (APA) on page 2, line 8 through page 4, line 5 of the specification. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Applicant's APA in view of Freer (U.S. Patent No. 5,392,502). Applicants respectfully submit that neither Applicant's APA nor Freer, alone or in combination with another reference, discloses, teaches, or suggests the presently claimed invention for the reasons given below.

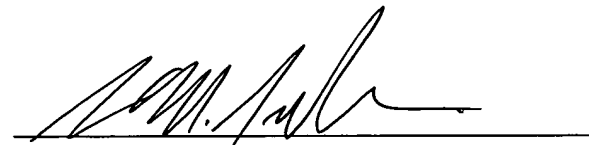
The Examiner correctly notes in the Office Action that the Applicant's APA does not teach placing molding components into stock, or removing molding components from stock for modifications that correspond to specifications of customer orders. Contrary to the Examiner's statements, however, neither does Freer. Freer discloses a micro-machining center for tooling and machining "bar stock" into screws. The screw machine disclosed by Freer uses electronically stored screw sequences and tooling software to control the machining of various types of screws from raw screw material, referred to as "bar stock." Freer does not even mention the manufacture of molding components for use with hot runner systems. Moreover, Freer does not disclose, teach, or suggest manufacturing components, placing them in stock, removing them

from stock, and further manufacturing or modifying the components in accordance with the specifications of customer orders.]

All of the currently pending claims recite methods for placing molding components into stock and removing molding components from stock for modifications or further manufacturing that correspond to specifications of customer orders. Consequently, neither the Applicant's APA nor Freer anticipates or obviates, alone or in combination with another reference, the present claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103. Applicant believes the present claims to be in condition for allowance, and earnestly request early notification of same.

If, for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the basis of this amendment and feels that a telephone conference would help clear up any unresolved matters, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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U.S. Patent Application No. 09/595,133
Changes to Specification
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

First full paragraph on page 18, lines 5-12:

The method of the present invention is well suited for use with an online ordering system, such as an Internet-based hot runner configuration system. The assignee of the present invention operates such a system, named Merlin™, which is suitable for use with the method of the present invention. For more information on Merlin™, see the URL “www.moldmasters.com” and the commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/595,154 [_____], entitled “Method And Apparatus For An Automated Injection Molding Configuring and Manufacturing System,” filed concurrently with the present application on June 6, 2000, and specifically incorporated in its entirety herein by reference.